Phasing out wooden berths with cushioned berths

1919. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress made in phasing out wooden berths with that of cushioned berths in various trains in the country ;

(b) what is the target date fixed in completing the phasing out programme totally ; and

(c) what is the total cost of financial commitment in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Railways have programmed to provide cushioned berths in sleeper coaches so far 1486 BG.&MG. sleeper coaches with wooden berths have been fitted with cushioned berths.

(b) This work is expected to be completed by 1990.

(c) Total cost of conversion is about Rs. 15 Crores.

Enrolment under Adult Education Programme in Andhra Pradesh

1920. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of persons enrolled under the Adult Education Programme during the last three years, year-wise, in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) what target has been fixed for the year 1989-90 ;

(c) what are the details of the funds released to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount in 1989-90; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (c) Number of persons enrolled and funds released under the Adult Education Programme in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Persons enrolled (in lakh)	Funds released (in lakh)
1986-87 . . .	2.32	276.69
1987-88 . . .	2.33	311.22
1988-89 . . .	2.34	289.19

(b) The target for enrolment for providing functional literacy to adult learners during the year 1989-90 is 9·68 lakhs.

(d) and (e) Funds are released on year to year basis depending on performance and availability of funds.

Central assistance to Sanskrit colleges in Andhra Pradesh

1921. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the sanskrit degree colleges functioning in Andhra Pradesh with the assistance of the Central Government;

(b) what is the amount of grants made by the Central Government for the said colleges during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the funds or to give assistance for those or new sanskrit degree colleges in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The University Grants Commission is not providing assistance to any sanskrit degree college in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Commission has recently decided that single faculty colleges teaching classical languages viz. Sanskrit, Pali etc., which have been recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act and are declared fit to receive Central assistance under Section 12-B of the UGC Act will also be eligible for development assistance during the 7th Plan. The colleges in Andhra Pradesh if they satisfy the above mentioned criteria, would also be eligible for such assistance.

Computerisation of passport offices in Andhra Pradesh

1922. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of applications for passports opening at Hyderabad and other passport offices in Andhra Pradesh up to the 31st March, 1989 ;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in issuing passports ;

(c) what steps have been taken to issue passports in the prescribed time limit at these offices ; and

(d) what are the details of the passport offices which have been computerised and are likely to be computerised in Andhra Pradesh during the current plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Total pendency as on 31st March, 1989 in Passport Office, Hyderabad is 42,705. There is no other Passport Office in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Delay in the issue of Passports is mainly due to delay in receipt of Police verification reports or incomplete information provided by the applicants, and a sharp increase in the applications in the Passport Office.

(c) Concerned authorities have been reminded to expedite police verification reports.

(d) The State of Andhra Pradesh has only one passport Office at Hyderabad. Computer site has been prepared for installation of computer.

Commercialisation of agro-aviation wing

1923. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot's project to commercialise the operation of its agro-aviation wing, is being resisted by their employees; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?